

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6414
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release (X) Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): B1

Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full

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[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 5245

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT ANTI-SEMITIC ALLEGATIONS IN ARGENTINA

REF: A STATE 141670 NOTAL, B 76 BUENOS AIRES 4160

1. FROM OUR RECENT AND CONTINUOUS CONTACTS WITH THE
JEWISH COMMUNITY, WE DETECT NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE
FROM OUR EARLIER REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE
GENERAL SITUATION OF JEWS IN ARGENTINA.

2. WE NOTED THAT IN A JUNE 9 CONVERSATION WITH
EMBOFF, THE COUNSELOR OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY
RECENTLY REITERATED THE OPINION THAT ALTHOUGH
ANTI-SEMITISM AMONG SOME SECTORS OF THE ARGENTINE
PEOPLE HAS BEEN A PROBLEM, THIS WAS NOT A FACTOR IN
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT POLICY. IN A MAY STATEMENT,
THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT ANTI-SEMITIC
GROUPS EXISTED IN ARGENTINA, BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTS. THE HEAD OF THE
MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY, THE
DAIA, RECENTLY TOLD EX-SECRETARY OF STATE
KISSINGER (PROTECT) THAT OFFICIAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE ORGANIZED JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE

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ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WERE CURRENTLY EXCELLENT.

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3. JEWISH SOURCES TELL US -- AND WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE -- THAT SOME JEWS DETAINED FOR SECURITY REASONS HAVE SUBJECT TO HARSHER TREATMENT THAN NON-JEWS, OWING TO TRADITIONAL ANTI-SEMITISM AMONG CERTAIN POLICE AND SECURITY ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, A VISITING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TOLD US EARLIER THIS WEEK HE HAD HEARD SOME REPORTS LATELY OF EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD TREATMENT FOR JEWISH PRISONERS -- PRESUMABLY THE RESULT OF AN EFFORT TO CLEAN UP THE GOA IMAGE (MAYBE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORLD SOCCER CUP GAMES).

4. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED INCIDENTS LATELY OF ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACKS. JEWISH CONTACTS IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH US DISPUTED THE LA SEMANA ALLEGATIONS THAT ANTI-JEWISH SLOGANS HAVE LATELY BEEN PAINTED ON JEWISH SHOPS IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES. THE EARLIER PROBLEM WITH THE DISPLAY AND SALE OF ANTI-JEWISH TRACTS HAS NOT RECURRED IN MORE THAN A YEAR.

5. THE JEWISH COMMUNITY APPEARS TO HAVE RELAXED SOMEWHAT IN RECENT MONTHS. REPORTS OF JEWISH DISAPPEARANCES ARE DIMINISHING. LA OPINION EDITOR TIMERMAN HAS BEEN MOVED TO HOUSE ARREST. JEWISH LEADERS HAVE COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS THAT THE MILITARY JUNTA'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS NO LONGER REFER TO REBUILDING A "DEMOCRATIC CHRISTIAN NATION," WITH IMPLIED EXCLUSION OF NON-CHRISTIAN GROUPS. C

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THERE IS ALSO A

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RECENT REPORT BY AN ISRAELI AUTHOR MARCEL ZOHAR, WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN BEING WAGED AGAINST JEWS IN ARGENTINA. THE PERCEPTION OF THIS AUTHOR, WHO IS UNKNOWN TO US, IS THAT GOA HAS TRIED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INQUIRIES AND TO JEWISH CONCERNS IN ARGENTINA.

6. WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS VOLATILE QUESTION.
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